

1ST HALF 2018 UPDATE



SONOMA COUNTY CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

54 CURRENT & FORMER FOSTER YOUTH SERVED

Dear Friends,

We would like to share some exciting news on what we have been up to at the Sonoma County Children's Village (SCCV) the first half of this year:

51 FOSTER CHILDREN SERVED

18 RECEIVING ORTHODONTIA

Orthodontic treatments are notoriously difficult to get funded for foster children, and we have become the go-to source in Sonoma County for helping to finance treatments. We are happy that we are able to help fund this urgent need and improve the health and self-esteem of foster youth.

29 ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Enrichment activities have included music, art, sports and summer camps.

Royal Family Kids Summer Camp

Like last year, we sponsored 24 of a total of 69 foster kids who attended summer camp through Royal Family Kids. RFK is an all-volunteer organization that puts on a week of summer camp for foster children ages 6 - 12, with trauma-informed counselors and an army of support volunteers who do everything from stealthily changing wet bed sheets to putting on a festive birthday party for all the children at camp - since for some, this is the only birthday party they will have.

Why do we partner to fund RFK? It offers kids some old-fashioned summer camp fun, geared exclusively for foster children. It is a chance for foster kids to spend time with their siblings - 19 sibling sets attended this year, making up around 60% of the total campers. As an overnight camp, it gives foster parents some respite. And with a 1:1 ratio of adults per child and always 2 deep, it is extremely safe and can create strong relationships that may lead to mentorship or adoption.

CPI Summer Arts Camp



This week-long camp gave foster youth the opportunity to discover and nurture their creativity and new ways to express themselves and just to have fun, all in a safe, inclusive environment, under the sensitive leadership of trauma-informed teaching artists of the Child Parent Institute (CPI).

CPI is also working on art programs for foster youths and their families during the school year, as part of our partnership.

EDUCATIONAL AND ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

Young adults who were in foster care often lack the network and support most young people enjoy who grow up in their own supportive families. Therefore, we have started to extend our support to motivated young people who need a little boost to reach their goals through our

"TAY Education & Enrichment Program" (TAY = transitional age youth).

Among our recent support for young adults who have been in the Child Welfare System:

- Professional driver's training for a young woman who needed transportation to her college classes and job
- Financial aid for studying abroad for a college student who had aged out of her eligibility to receive other financial aid
- Partial funding of vocational school for a young single mother so she would be able to provide a better life for herself and her family

We are actively involved in the Sonoma County foster care community, partnering with numerous foster care organizations and participating in The Coalition for Foster Youth.

We hope you are as excited about our work serving foster youth as we are! As a very lean organization with no staff and just a handful of volunteer board members, we hope you consider volunteering. Areas we need help in include: community outreach, volunteer coordination and program administration.

If you have questions or comments, or in case you feel inspired to volunteer with us, please let us know at info@socokids.org!

Sincerely,

Jackie Crook, Beate Borstelmann-Min, Sean Ramsey, Nancy C. Dougherty, Paige Weatherley
Board of the Sonoma County Children's Village

